

## CLAIMS

We claim:

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1. A method of selecting a job post site, comprising:  
obtaining at least one job post site selection criterion;  
automatically ranking a plurality of job post sites based on the at least one job  
post site selection criterion; and  
selecting the job post site from the plurality of job post sites based on the  
ranking of the plurality of job post sites.
2. A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein automatically ranking the  
plurality of job post sites based on the at least one job post site selection criterion  
comprises:  
accessing a fact table that contains data relevant to the at least one job post site  
selection criterion; and  
using an inference engine to process the at least one job post site selection  
criterion and the fact table to rank the plurality of job post sites based on the at least  
one job post site selection criterion.
3. A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein obtaining the at least one job  
post site selection criterion comprises:  
obtaining a geographic location criterion;  
obtaining a skill set criterion; and  
obtaining a job post site performance criterion that is indicative of a value of a  
job post site in acting as a source for candidates.
4. A method as recited in Claim 3, wherein automatically ranking the  
plurality of job post sites based on the at least one job post site selection criterion  
comprises:  
identifying job post sites of the plurality of job post sites that satisfy the  
geographic location criterion;

ranking the identified job post sites that satisfy the geographic location criterion based on the job post site performance criterion to generate a geographic location and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites;

10 identifying job post sites of the plurality of job post sites that satisfy the skill set criterion; and

ranking the identified job post sites that satisfy the skill set criterion based on the job post site performance criterion to generate a skill set and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites.

5. A method as recited in Claim 4, wherein identifying job post sites of the plurality of job post sites that satisfy the geographic location criterion, and ranking the identified job post sites that satisfy the geographic location criterion based on the job post site performance criterion to generate the geographic location and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites comprise:

5 accessing a geographic location fact table that contains data relevant to the geographic location criterion;

accessing a job post site performance fact table that contains data relevant to the job post site performance criterion;

10 using an inference engine to process the geographic location criterion and the geographic location fact table to identify the job post sites of the plurality of job post sites that satisfy the geographic location criterion; and

15 using the inference engine to process the identified job post sites that satisfy the geographic location criterion, the job post site performance criterion, and the job post site performance fact table to rank the identified job post sites that satisfy the geographic location criterion based on the job post site performance criterion.

6. A method as recited in Claim 4, wherein identifying job post sites of the plurality of job post sites that satisfy the skill set criterion, and ranking the identified job post sites that satisfy the skill set criterion based on the job post site performance criterion to generate the skill set and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites comprise:

5 accessing a skill set fact table that contains data relevant to the skill set criterion;

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10 using an inference engine to process the skill set criterion and the skill set fact  
table to identify the job post sites of the plurality of job post sites that satisfy the skill  
set criterion; and

7. A method as recited in Claim 4, further comprising:  
combining the geographic location and job post site performance ranked list of  
job post sites with the skill set and job post site performance ranked list of job post  
sites to generate a geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked  
list of job post sites.

8. A method as recited in Claim 7, wherein combining the geographic location and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites with the skill set and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites to generate the geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites comprises:

computing, for each respective job post site in the geographic location and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites and the skill set and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites, a weighted average using ranks assigned to the respective job post site in the geographic location and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites and the skill set and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites; and

using the computed weighted averages to generate the geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list.

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5 comprises:

10 ranked list of job post sites and the skill set and job post site performance ranked list  
of job post sites; and

10. A method of posting a job opening description, comprising:

automatically ranking a plurality of job post sites based on the at least one job  
te selection criterion;

posting the job opening description to the selected at least one job post site.

12. A method as recited in Claim 10, wherein selecting the at least one job site from the plurality of job post sites based on the ranking of the plurality of job sites comprises:

obtaining user input to select the at least one job post site from the ranked plurality of job post sites from the end user.

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description to the selected at least one job post site comprises:

selected at least one job post site; and

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post sites based on the at least one job post site selection criterion comprises:

selection criterion; and

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16. A method as recited in Claim 10, further comprising:

job post site in acting as a source for candidates; and

wherein the at least one job post site selection criterion comprises:

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post sites based on the at least one job post site selection criterion comprises:

geographic location criterion;

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set criterion; and

10 automatically ranking the identified job post sites that satisfy the skill set  
criterion based on the job post site performance criterion to generate a skill set and job  
post site performance ranked list of job post sites.

18. A method as recited in Claim 17, further comprising:  
automatically ranking the geographic location and job post site performance  
ranked list of job post sites with the skill set and job post site performance ranked list  
of job post sites to generate a geographic location, skill set, and job post site  
5 performance ranked list of job post sites.

19. A method as recited in Claim 18, wherein selecting the at least one job  
post site from the plurality of job post sites based on the ranking of the plurality of job  
post sites comprises:  
selecting the job post sites in the geographic location, skill set, and job post  
5 site performance ranked list of job post sites.

20. A method as recited in Claim 19, wherein posting the job opening  
description to the selected at least one job post site comprises:  
converting the job opening description into a respective format compatible  
with a respective one of the job post sites in the geographic location, skill set, and job  
5 post site performance ranked list of job post sites; and  
sending the respective converted job opening description to the respective one  
of the job post sites in the geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance  
ranked list of job post sites.

displaying the geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance  
5 ranked list of job post sites to an end user; and

22. A method as recited in Claim 21, wherein posting the job opening description to the selected at least one job post site comprises:

converting the job opening description into a format compatible with the at least one job post site from the geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites obtained from the end user; and

sending the converted job opening description to the at least one job post site from the geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites obtained from the end user.

23. A system for posting a job opening description, comprising:  
a job opening description parser module that is configured to parse the job opening description to obtain at least one job post site selection criterion;  
a job post site expert system engine module that is configured to rank a plurality of job post sites based on the at least one job post site selection criterion;  
a job post site selection module that is configured to select at least one job post site from the plurality of job post sites based on the ranking of the plurality of job post sites; and  
a job post site posting module that is configured to post the job opening description to the selected at least one job post site.

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5            an inference engine that is configured to process the at least one job post site  
selection criterion and the fact table to rank the plurality of job post sites based on the  
at least one job post site selection criterion.

a site format module that is configured to convert the job opening description into a format compatible with the selected at least one job post site; and

5 a transport module that is configured to send the converted job opening description to the at least one job post site.

26. A system for selecting a job post site, comprising:  
means for obtaining at least one job post site selection criterion;  
means for automatically ranking a plurality of job post sites based on the at  
least one job post site selection criterion; and  
5 means for selecting the job post site from the plurality of job post sites based  
on the ranking of the plurality of job post sites.

means for accessing a fact table that contains data relevant to the at least one  
5 job post site selection criterion; and

means for using an inference engine to process the at least one job post site selection criterion and the fact table to rank the plurality of job post sites based on the at least one job post site selection criterion.

means for obtaining a geographic location criterion;  
means for obtaining a skill set criterion; and



5 means for obtaining a job post site performance criterion that is indicative of a value of a job post site in acting as a source for candidates.

29. A system as recited in Claim 28, wherein the means for automatically ranking the plurality of job post sites based on the at least one job post site selection criterion comprises:

5 means for identifying job post sites of the plurality of job post sites that satisfy the geographic location criterion;

means for ranking the identified job post sites that satisfy the geographic location criterion based on the job post site performance criterion to generate a geographic location and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites;

10 means for identifying job post sites of the plurality of job post sites that satisfy the skill set criterion; and

means for ranking the identified job post sites that satisfy the skill set criterion based on the job post site performance criterion to generate a skill set and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites.

30. A system as recited in Claim 29, wherein the means for identifying job post sites of the plurality of job post sites that satisfy the geographic location criterion, and the means for ranking the identified job post sites that satisfy the geographic location criterion based on the job post site performance criterion to generate the geographic location and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites  
5 comprise:

means for accessing a geographic location fact table that contains data relevant to the geographic location criterion;

10 means for accessing a job post site performance fact table that contains data relevant to the job post site performance criterion;

means for using an inference engine to process the geographic location criterion and the geographic location fact table to identify the job post sites of the plurality of job post sites that satisfy the geographic location criterion; and

15 means for using the inference engine to process the identified job post sites that satisfy the geographic location criterion, the job post site performance criterion, and the job post site performance fact table to rank the identified job post sites that

satisfy the geographic location criterion based on the job post site performance criterion.

31. A system as recited in Claim 29, wherein the means for identifying job post sites of the plurality of job post sites that satisfy the skill set criterion, and the means for ranking the identified job post sites that satisfy the skill set criterion based on the job post site performance criterion to generate the skill set and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites comprise:

means for accessing a skill set fact table that contains data relevant to the skill set criterion;

means for accessing a job post site performance fact table that contains data relevant to the job post site performance criterion;

10 means for using an inference engine to process the skill set criterion and the skill set fact table to identify the job post sites of the plurality of job post sites that satisfy the skill set criterion; and

means for using the inference engine to process the identified job post sites that satisfy the skill set criterion, the job post site performance criterion, and the job post site performance fact table to rank the identified job post sites that satisfy the skill set criterion based on the job post site performance criterion.

32. A system as recited in Claim 29, further comprising:

5 means for combining the geographic location and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites with the skill set and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites to generate a geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites.

33. A system as recited in Claim 32, wherein the means for combining the geographic location and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites with the skill set and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites to generate the geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites comprises:

means for computing, for each respective job post site in the geographic location and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites and the skill set and

job post site performance ranked list of job post sites, a weighted average using ranks assigned to the respective job post site in the geographic location and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites and the skill set and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites; and

means for using the computed weighted averages to generate the geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list.

34. A system as recited in Claim 32, wherein the means for combining the geographic location and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites with the skill set and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites to generate the geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites comprises:

means for computing, for each respective job post site in the geographic location and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites and the skill set and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites, an average using ranks assigned to the respective job post site in the geographic location and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites and the skill set and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites; and

means for using the computed averages to generate the geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list.

35. A system for posting a job opening description, comprising:

means for obtaining at least one job post site selection criterion;

means for automatically ranking a plurality of job post sites based on the at least one job post site selection criterion;

means for selecting at least one job post site from the plurality of job post sites based on the ranking of the plurality of job post sites; and

means for posting the job opening description to the selected at least one job post site.

36. A system as recited in Claim 35, wherein the job opening description comprises an extensible markup language (XML) data stream.



- 5 a geographic location criterion; and  
a skill set criterion.

42. A system as recited in Claim 41, wherein the means for ranking the plurality of job post sites based on the at least one job post site selection criterion comprises:

- means for identifying job post sites of the plurality of job post sites that satisfy  
5 the geographic location criterion;

means for automatically ranking the identified job post sites that satisfy the geographic location criterion based on the job post site performance criterion to generate a geographic location and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites;

- 10 means for identifying job post sites of the plurality of job post sites that satisfy the skill set criterion; and

means for automatically ranking the identified job post sites that satisfy the skill set criterion based on the job post site performance criterion to generate a skill set and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites.

43. A system as recited in Claim 42, further comprising:

- means for automatically ranking the geographic location and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites with the skill set and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites to generate a geographic location, skill set,  
5 and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites.

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44. A system as recited in Claim 43, wherein the means for selecting the at least one job post site from the plurality of job post sites based on the ranking of the plurality of job post sites comprises:

5 means for selecting the job post sites in the geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites.

45. A system as recited in Claim 44, wherein the means for posting the job opening description to the selected at least one job post site comprises:

5 means for converting the job opening description into a respective format compatible with a respective one of the job post sites in the geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites; and

means for sending the respective converted job opening description to the respective one of the job post sites in the geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites.

46. A system as recited in Claim 43, wherein the means for selecting the at least one job post site from the plurality of job post sites based on the ranking of the plurality of job post sites comprises:

5 means for displaying the geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites to an end user; and

means for obtaining user input to select the at least one job post site from the geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites from the end user.

47. A system as recited in Claim 46, wherein the means for posting the job opening description to the selected at least one job post site comprises:

5 means for converting the job opening description into a format compatible with the at least one job post site from the geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites obtained from the end user; and

means for sending the converted job opening description to the at least one job post site from the geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites obtained from the end user.

48. A computer program product for selecting a job post site, comprising:  
a computer readable storage medium having computer readable program code  
embodied therein, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code for obtaining at least one job post site  
5 selection criterion;

computer readable program code for automatically ranking a plurality of job post sites based on the at least one job post site selection criterion; and

computer readable program code for selecting the job post site from the plurality of job post sites based on the ranking of the plurality of job post sites.

49. A computer program product as recited in Claim 48, wherein the computer readable program code for automatically ranking the plurality of job post sites based on the at least one job post site selection criterion comprises:

computer readable program code for accessing a fact table that contains data  
5 relevant to the at least one job post site selection criterion; and

computer readable program code for using an inference engine to process the at least one job post site selection criterion and the fact table to rank the plurality of job post sites based on the at least one job post site selection criterion.

50. A computer program product as recited in Claim 48, wherein the computer readable program code for obtaining the at least one job post site selection criterion comprises:

computer readable program code for obtaining a geographic location criterion;  
5 computer readable program code for obtaining a skill set criterion; and  
computer readable program code for obtaining a job post site performance  
criterion that is indicative of a value of a job post site in acting as a source for  
candidates.

51. A computer program product as recited in Claim 50, wherein the computer readable program code for automatically ranking the plurality of job post sites based on the at least one job post site selection criterion comprises:

5 computer readable program code for identifying job post sites of the plurality of job post sites that satisfy the geographic location criterion;

computer readable program code for ranking the identified job post sites that satisfy the geographic location criterion based on the job post site performance criterion to generate a geographic location and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites;

10 computer readable program code for identifying job post sites of the plurality of job post sites that satisfy the skill set criterion; and

computer readable program code for ranking the identified job post sites that satisfy the skill set criterion based on the job post site performance criterion to generate a skill set and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites.

52. A computer program product as recited in Claim 51, wherein the computer readable program code for identifying job post sites of the plurality of job post sites that satisfy the geographic location criterion, and the computer readable program code for ranking the identified job post sites that satisfy the geographic location criterion based on the job post site performance criterion to generate the geographic location and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites comprise:

computer readable program code for accessing a geographic location fact table that contains data relevant to the geographic location criterion;

10 computer readable program code for accessing a job post site performance fact table that contains data relevant to the job post site performance criterion;

computer readable program code for using an inference engine to process the geographic location criterion and the geographic location fact table to identify the job post sites of the plurality of job post sites that satisfy the geographic location criterion;

15 and

computer readable program code for using the inference engine to process the identified job post sites that satisfy the geographic location criterion, the job post site



performance criterion, and the job post site performance fact table to rank the identified job post sites that satisfy the geographic location criterion based on the job post site performance criterion.

53. A computer program product as recited in Claim 51, wherein the computer readable program code for identifying job post sites of the plurality of job post sites that satisfy the skill set criterion, and the computer readable program code for ranking the identified job post sites that satisfy the skill set criterion based on the job post site performance criterion to generate the skill set and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites comprise:

computer readable program code for accessing a skill set fact table that contains data relevant to the skill set criterion;

computer readable program code for accessing a job post site performance fact table that contains data relevant to the job post site performance criterion;

computer readable program code for using an inference engine to process the skill set criterion and the skill set fact table to identify the job post sites of the plurality of job post sites that satisfy the skill set criterion; and

computer readable program code for using the inference engine to process the identified job post sites that satisfy the skill set criterion, the job post site performance criterion, and the job post site performance fact table to rank the identified job post sites that satisfy the skill set criterion based on the job post site performance criterion.

54. A computer program product as recited in Claim 51, further comprising:

computer readable program code for combining the geographic location and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites with the skill set and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites to generate a geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites.

55. A computer program product as recited in Claim 54, wherein the computer readable program code for combining the geographic location and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites with the skill set and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites to generate the geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites comprises:

computer readable program code for computing, for each respective job post site in the geographic location and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites and the skill set and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites, a weighted average using ranks assigned to the respective job post site in the geographic location and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites and the skill set and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites; and

computer readable program code for using the computed weighted averages to generate the geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list.

56. A computer program product as recited in Claim 54, wherein the computer readable program code for combining the geographic location and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites with the skill set and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites to generate the geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites comprises:

computer readable program code for computing, for each respective job post site in the geographic location and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites and the skill set and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites, an average using ranks assigned to the respective job post site in the geographic location and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites and the skill set and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites; and

computer readable program code for using the computed averages to generate the geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list.

57. A computer program product for posting a job opening description, comprising:

a computer readable storage medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code for posting the job opening description to the selected at least one job post site.

59. A computer program product as recited in Claim 57, wherein the computer readable program code for selecting the at least one job post site from the plurality of job post sites based on the ranking of the plurality of job post sites comprises:

computer readable program code for obtaining user input to select the at least one job post site from the ranked plurality of job post sites from the end user.

60. A computer program product as recited in Claim 57, wherein the computer readable program code for selecting the at least one job post site from the plurality of job post sites based on the ranking of the plurality of job post sites comprises:

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61. A computer program product as recited in Claim 57, wherein the computer readable program code for posting the job opening description to the selected at least one job post site comprises:

- computer readable program code for converting the job opening description  
5 into a format compatible with the selected at least one job post site; and
- computer readable program code for sending the converted job opening description to the at least one job post site.

62. A computer program product as recited in Claim 57, wherein the computer readable program code for ranking the plurality of job post sites based on the at least one job post site selection criterion comprises:

- computer readable program code for accessing a fact table that contains data  
5 relevant to the at least one job post site selection criterion; and
- computer readable program code for using an inference engine to process the at least one job post site selection criterion and the first fact table to rank the plurality of job post sites based on the at least one job post site selection criterion.

63. A computer program product as recited in Claim 57, further comprising:

- computer readable program code for obtaining a job post site performance  
5 criterion that is indicative of a value of a job post site in acting as a source for candidates; and
- wherein the at least one job post site selection criterion comprises:
- a geographic location criterion; and
  - a skill set criterion.

64. A computer program product as recited in Claim 63, wherein the computer readable program code for ranking the plurality of job post sites based on the at least one job post site selection criterion comprises:

- computer readable program code for identifying job post sites of the plurality  
5 of job post sites that satisfy the geographic location criterion;

computer readable program code for automatically ranking the identified job post sites that satisfy the geographic location criterion based on the job post site performance criterion to generate a geographic location and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites;

10 computer readable program code for identifying job post sites of the plurality of job post sites that satisfy the skill set criterion; and

computer readable program code for automatically ranking the identified job post sites that satisfy the skill set criterion based on the job post site performance criterion to generate a skill set and job post site performance ranked list of job post  
15 sites.

65. A computer program product as recited in Claim 64, further comprising:

computer readable program code for automatically ranking the geographic location and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites with the skill set  
5 and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites to generate a geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites.

66. A computer program product as recited in Claim 65, wherein the computer readable program code for selecting the at least one job post site from the plurality of job post sites based on the ranking of the plurality of job post sites comprises:

5 computer readable program code for selecting the job post sites in the geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites.

67. A computer program product as recited in Claim 66, wherein the computer readable program code for posting the job opening description to the selected at least one job post site comprises:

5 computer readable program code for converting the job opening description into a respective format compatible with a respective one of the job post sites in the geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites; and

computer readable program code for sending the respective converted job opening description to the respective one of the job post sites in the geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites.

68. A computer program product as recited in Claim 65, wherein the computer readable program code for selecting the at least one job post site from the plurality of job post sites based on the ranking of the plurality of job post sites comprises:

- 5 computer readable program code for displaying the geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites to an end user; and
- computer readable program code for obtaining user input to select the at least one job post site from the geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites from the end user.

69. A computer program product as recited in Claim 68, wherein the computer readable program code for posting the job opening description to the selected at least one job post site comprises:

- 5 computer readable program code for converting the job opening description into a format compatible with the at least one job post site from the geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites obtained from the end user; and
- 10 computer readable program code for sending the converted job opening description to the at least one job post site from the geographic location, skill set, and job post site performance ranked list of job post sites obtained from the end user.